Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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R 052143Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9317

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EO 11652 GDS TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA

REF: STATE 83084

1. WE RECALL NO RPT NO OCCASION IN PAST 18 MONTHS IN WHICH AMBASSADOR OR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR VETOED A PROPOSED DEA OPERATION IN MEXICO. ON THE CONTRARY, AMBASSADOR HAS GONE TO BAT FOR DEA REPEATEDLY, MOST RECENTLY BY SENDING PER-SONAL LETTERS TO MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL URGING ACTION ON A SPECIFIC INVESTIGATION (CASE OF ANTHONY CRUZ-VASQUEZ), THE HEROIN SIGNATURE PROGRAM, AND JANUS PROSECUTIONS. STATE OFFICERS IN THE NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT (NAU) USED THEIR MEXICAN CONTACTS TO HELP DEA ESTABLISH A NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE LIAISON SYSTEM, PRECIPITATED A MEETING OF ALL MEXICAN NARCOTICS ZONE COORDINATORS AND THEN ARRANGED FOR DEA TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE, AND HAVE INTRODUCED SEVERAL SOURCES OF ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION TO DEA AGENTS. 2. ONLY AREA IN WHICH DEA MIGHT ATTACK MISSION SUPPORT INVOLVES RECENT REMOVAL OF DEA OBSERVERS IN GOM ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF AND CONCURRED IN COURSE OF ACTION WE FOLLOWED IN THIS CASE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE DISTURBED BY COMMENTS MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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BY CONGRESSMAN GILMAN TO SENIOR ADVISER FALCO DURING HEARINGS ON MARCH 22, AS EVIDENCED BY DRAFT TRANSCRIPT FALCO LEFT WITH EMBASSY LAST WEEK. GILMAN SEEMED OBSESSED WITH THE NEED TO HAVE "OUR PEOPLE", WHICH HE DEFINED AS "KNOWLEDGEABLE LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL", IN THE FIELD TO ASCERTAIN THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE IS PROPERLY UTILIZED. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT "IF THE DEA OFFICERS ARE NOT PER-

MITTED TO GO ON THESE FLIGHTS, HOW ARE THE DEA PERSONNEL ABLE TO TELL US WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE ERADICATION PROGRAM, EXCEPT BY READING THE NEWSPAPERS?"

- 4. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE NAU, WHICH HAS TAKEN OVER REPORTING ON THE ERADICATION CAPMAIGN, ARE AS MUCH "OUR PEOPLE" AS WERE THE DEA SPOTTERS. INDEED, THEY ARE MORE "OUR PEOPLE" SINCE THEY WORK AT THIS TASK FULL TIME AND NOT FOR TWO DISTINCT 90-DAY PERIODS. WE SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER A LAW ENFORCEMENT BACKGROUND HAS ANY RELATIONSHIP WHATSOEVER TO THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, SINCE THE QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED IS WHETHER THE MEXICANS ARE FINDING AND DESTROYING ILLICIT CROPS, AN AREA IN WHICH NO RPT NO U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS ANY EXPERIENCE OTHER THAN WHAT IT MAY HAVE ACQUIRED FROM THE MEXICANS.
- 5. GILMAN DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE A VALID POINT IN ASKING HOW DEA CAN TELL HIM WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IF ITS PEOPLE ARE NOT THERE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HE IS GOING TO THE WRONG SOURCE AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST THAT HE ADDRESS QUESTIONS OF THIS NATURE TO STATE, NOT DEA. SINCE STATE ADMINISTERS THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE GOM ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, AND SINCE STATE IN EFFECT USED THESE FUNDS TO PURCHASE MONITORING SERVICES FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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DEA, THE ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT MONITORING ACTIVITIES IS THAT STATE HAS TERMINATED DEA'S CONTRACT TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE, OPTING INSTEAD TO PERFORM THE SERVICE IN-HOUSE, BOTH TO ACCOMMODATE A REQUEST FROM THE MEXICANS AND TO EFFECT CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS TO THE U.S.G. LUCEY

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